



West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
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Hello to all the newsletter readers of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church!

Saint Patrick's Day is observed on March 17.

In Patrick's autobiographical *Confessio*, he writes that when he was about sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland. He writes that he lived there for six years as an animal herder before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to spread Christianity in northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland. *(from the Wikipedia page for Saint Patrick)*

As we take some joy and fun from the color green (and perhaps even leprechauns and pots of gold) this March, I invite us to remember the story of the man behind the day.

Saint Patrick was a missionary, pastor, and church leader. He also stands as a wonderful example of sharing God's love, even when it is hard.

Jesus says, "Love your enemies." Patrick was kidnapped into slavery in a foreign land, and after escaping, returned to that land and people, not with revenge, but with compassion and a desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ!

Where might we be able to share God's love this month?

Blessings,
Rev. Andrew Wirt

Pastor Andrew Recommends

Hymns We Love

by Steve and Pippa Cramer
available in RightNow Media

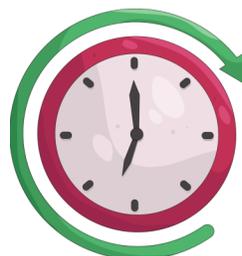


Description: *The series comprises five video sessions. Each one tells the story of the hymn writer, how the hymn came to be, and the Christian message behind it. Across the five sessions, **Hymns We Love** will help bring the core truths of the Christian story alive in a way that is gentle, warm and clear.*

The video sessions also feature beautiful renditions of the hymns, filmed in a historic English village church, along with testimonies and prayers.

There are also three introductory sessions: for Christmas and for Easter and a third which can be used at any time of the year.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Reminder: Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time
begins
Sunday, March 8, 2026
@ 2:00 AM

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

3/1 - 10:45AM Worship
w/ Communion
(9:30AM Sunday School)

3/8 - 10:45AM Worship
(9:30AM Sunday School)

3/15 - 10:45AM Worship
(9:30AM Sunday School)

3/22 - 10:45AM Worship
(9:30AM Sunday School)

3/29 - Palm Sunday
10:45AM Worship
(9:30AM Sunday School)

COMMUNION

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 10:45 AM and we would love for you to join us! All are welcome at the Lord's Table!



FEBRUARY SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, February 24, 2026

We gathered to cover our church, congregation, and community with prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world.

- Reflected on Scripture - Matthew 4:1-4
- Approved minutes from January Session meeting
- Approved minutes from Congregational meeting
- Approved annual PCUSA reporting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Set quorum for our meetings back to 5 elders (from 4 last year because there are no longer empty seats on Session)
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events including:
 - Good Friday Service, April 3
 - VBS, June 15-19 and Sunday, June 21
- Approved Pam Siegel as Clerk of Session for 2026
- Approved Fellowship to continue monthly "Soup Sale" Sundays
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events and rentals
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, March 14, 2026
4:00pm - 6:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall



Cost is \$12

\$6 for children age 8 and under

No advanced tickets. Pay at the door.
The meal includes: spaghetti, meatballs,
salad bar, bread, drink and dessert.
Carry-out will be available.

Everyone is welcome to help. We will be prepping food and setting up tables Friday and Saturday throughout the day. Lots of helping hands have made this a huge success in the past. Can you help this year? Contact the church office, sign up in the lobby, or talk with Larry or Mary Esther DeTesta



If you are reading this on your computer, you can click the image to the left and download a flier to share with friends!

SOUP-ER SUNDAY

Thank you to all those who bought soup in February!
Our next "Soup-er Sunday" will be March 15 after the service.



EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Can you help us prepare?

Candy is being collected for the Easter Eggs. A bin is located in the lobby, near the Sunday School hallway. All candy should be prepackaged, individually wrapped, and small enough to fit inside a plastic Easter egg.



We are also looking for donations of prepackaged treats. Check the donation board outside the sanctuary.

We will need all donations by Sunday, March 15.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 28 at 10:00AM.

Bring your BASKET and a friend!



All children up to 5th grade are welcome.

We will gather in the sanctuary.

Then the hunt will be outside — rain, snow, or sunshine!

We will end in the Fellowship Hall to empty our eggs, visit with the Easter Bunny, and more.



CE MEETING

Sunday, March 8

Sunday, March 8 after worship in the upstairs kitchen.

We will be planning for the Easter Egg Hunt and starting to look forward to VBS.

LENT DEVOTIONALS

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

If you want to take on a devotional practice (such as reading Scripture) this season of Lent, it's not too late to start. Any day is a good day for reading the Bible. There are many options available for free. Pastor Andrew recommends a few:

- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has a new online daily devotional every Lent, written by members of the PTS community.
www.pts.edu/devotional
- Presbyterian Hunger Program provides a Lent calendar each year
<https://pcusa.org/resource/tread-lightly-lent-lent-calendar>
- Journey to the Cross, the devotional series for Lent, returns to the free devotional website and app d365.org
- Lots of other videos available in the RightNow Media program provided by WHPC, check out WHPC recommendations after logging in

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Norwin Midweek Community Lenten Service and Luncheon at New Hope Church singing, worship, lunch and fellowship each Wednesday throughout Lent Service will begin at 11:30 AM followed by lunch at 12:30 PM

PLANNING AHEAD ... HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

March 29



Worship 10:45AM

Sunday School 9:30AM

Holy Thursday



April 2 @ 1st UCC Irwin

Worship w/ Communion Time TBD

Good Friday

April 3



Worship 7:00PM

Easter Sunday

April 5



Worship 10:45AM

Sunday School 9:30AM

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.



Fish Banks & One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 13 and Easter Sunday, April 20 (but the main attention will be given on Palm Sunday).

OGHS envelopes are in the pews and will be available in the bulletins on March 22 and 29 along with bulletin inserts with more information.

You can also find “One Great Hour” in the drop down menu of the online offering available from the church website until after Easter Sunday.

Learn more about how your gifts bless God’s people around the world:
<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>

EASTER FLOWERS

Each year we decorate our church sanctuary with colorful spring flowers as part of our Easter celebration. *(After Easter service, please take your flowers home with you.)*

If you would like to order a flower in honor of or in memory of someone special, complete the form provided below or call the church office.

Paper form, along with payment, can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the office.

Orders must be placed by March 9.

Flower choices are Lily, Tulip or Hyacinth. (colors are random)

All flowers are \$10 each. Thank you!

Your Name:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Flower	How many?	Cost:
Tulips	_____	\$ 10
Hyacinth	_____	\$ 10
Lilies	_____	\$ 10
 Total	 _____	 \$ _____

Please print legibly. Thank you!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to the Deacons for the refreshments after church on March 1.

Thank you to everyone who attended the congregational meeting on February 1.

And to all church leadership who worked hard on those year end reports.

Thank you to the new class of church officers!

Elders

Jim Crust, Larry DeTesta, Thomas Lalor, and Pam Siegel

Deacons

Deb Miller and Jeff Siegel

Thank you to our Winter Weather Response Team, John Bankosh, and others who have helped with caring for our building and our people through the winter storms.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 3	Jake Gilmartin
March 5	Paul Jackson
March 9	Debbie Miller
March 11	Janet Vandermer
March 14	Matt Porterfield
March 19	Cameron Mackenzie
March 21	Mary Porterfield
March 24	Barbara Davis
March 25	Nancy Stepinsky
March 25	Jeff Siegel
March 27	Joyce Edmonds
March 28	Wylie Irwin
March 28	Pat Smith
March 29	Karissa Hrico

If you have a March birthday, and we've missed you – PLEASE, let the office know!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



MARCH 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship with communion	2 FH - Dartball (H)	3 FH - Rental	4 11 am Senior Cards FH - Rental	5	6 FH - Rental	7 FH - Rental
8 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	9 Upstairs Rental FH - Dartball (A)	10 6:30pm Deacons	11 11 am Senior Cards FH - Rental	12	13 FH - Rental	14 Spaghetti Dinner
15 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship "Soup"er Sunday	16 FH - Dartball (H)	17  6:30pm Stewardship (Zoom)	18 11 am Senior Cards	19	20 FH - Rental	21
22 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	23 Upstairs Rental FH - Dartball (H)	24 6:30pm Session	25 11 am Senior Cards	26	27 FH - Rental	28 Easter Egg Hunt 
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	30 FH - Dartball (A)	31	Church Office Hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am — 2pm			